

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method for manufacturing a length of six-link rope chain, comprising:

forming generally C-shaped link elements from a material to define a gap between facing ends thereof, each link element having an axis, a first major surface perpendicular to said axis, an opposite second major surface perpendicular to said axis, an interior edge, and an exterior edge having a curved surface portion defined by a straight linear component that is parallel to, or inclined to, said axis at all points along said curved surface portion, said curved surface portion being smooth and highly light reflective; and

assembling a plurality of said link elements to produce a length of six-link rope chain, wherein:

said material is a sheet of material having a plurality of regions, adjacent ones of which exhibit different visual properties; whereby

link elements formed from said sheet of material comprises a plurality of regions, adjacent ones of which exhibit different visual properties.

2. (original) The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

transitions between said major surfaces and said exterior edge define corners; and

in forming said link elements, at least one corner is rounded.

3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim 1 [[3]], wherein said different visual properties are selected from the group consisting of different colors, different

surface textures, different reflectivities, different materials, different gold karat weights, different shapes, different patterns, different sizes, and different designs.

5. (original) The method as claimed in Claim 4, wherein:

said different visual properties are different surface textures; and

forming said link element includes forming at least one of said regions of different surface textures employing at least one process selected from the group consisting of serrating, scoring, knurling, lining, patterning, pressure stamping, impressing, sandblasting, etching, shaping, polishing, matting, frosting, and diamond cutting.

6. (original) The method as claimed in Claim 4, wherein:

said regions of different visual properties include regions of different surface textures superimposed on said regions of different colors; and

forming said link element includes forming at least one of said regions of different surface textures employing at least one process selected from the group consisting of serrating, scoring, knurling, lining, patterning, pressure stamping, impressing, sandblasting, etching, shaping, polishing, matting, frosting, and diamond cutting.

7. (original) The method as claimed in Claim 4, wherein:

said regions of different visual properties include regions of different surface textures superimposed on said regions of different reflectivities; and

forming said link element includes forming at least one of said regions of different surface textures employing at least one process selected from the group consisting of serrating, scoring, knurling, lining, patterning, pressure stamping, impressing, sandblasting, etching, shaping, polishing, matting, frosting, and diamond cutting.

8. (original) The method as claimed in Claim 4, wherein:

said regions of different visual properties include regions of different surface

textures superimposed on said regions of different materials; and

forming said link element includes forming at least one of said regions of different surface textures employing at least one process selected from the group consisting of serrating, scoring, knurling, lining, patterning, pressure stamping, impressing, sandblasting, etching, shaping, polishing, matting, frosting, and diamond cutting.

9. (original) The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

said at least one link element is formed with a varying cross section along the extent of such link element.

10. (original) The method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein:

a cross section of said link element at a first location along the extent of said link element is of a first configuration;

a cross section of said link element at a second location along the extent of said link element is of a second configuration; and

the cross section of said link continuously changes along its extent from said first location to said second location.

11. (original) The method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein:

a cross section of said link element at a first location along the extent of said link element is of a first configuration;

a cross section of said link element at a second location along the extent of said link element is of a second configuration; and

the cross section of said link changes in discrete stages along its extent from said first location to said second location.

12. (original) The method as claimed in Claim 1, comprising:

treating said exterior edge to have enhanced reflectivity.

13. (currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim [[3]] 1, wherein:

forming a link element from said material includes stamping said sheet of material with a stamping device.

14. (original) The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

said material is a sheet of material;

said at least one link element is stamped from said sheet of material in a stamping procedure; and

at least a portion of said link element has a textured surface formed during said stamping procedure.

15. (original) A length of six-link jewelry rope chain manufactured by the method as claimed in Claim 1.

16. – 18. (canceled)

19. (currently amended) ~~The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 17,~~

A length of jewelry rope chain constructed of a plurality of link elements assembled to form a length of six-link rope chain, wherein each of said link elements has an axis and is generally C-shaped in configuration to define a gap between facing ends thereof, at least one of said link elements comprises:

a first major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an opposite second major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an interior edge; and

an exterior edge having a curved surface portion defined by a straight linear component that is parallel to , or inclined to, said axis at all points along said curved surface portion, said curved surface portion being smooth and highly light reflective,

wherein said at least one link element comprises a plurality of regions, adjacent ones of which exhibit different visual properties,

wherein at least one region of said regions of different visual properties is textured by employing at least one process selected from the group consisting of serrating, scoring, knurling, lining, patterning, pressure stamping, impressing,

sandblasting, etching, shaping, polishing, matting, frosting, and diamond cutting.

20. (currently amended) ~~The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 17,~~
A length of jewelry rope chain constructed of a plurality of link elements assembled to form a length of six-link rope chain, wherein each of said link elements has an axis and is generally C-shaped in configuration to define a gap between facing ends thereof, at least one of said link elements comprises:

a first major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an opposite second major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an interior edge; and

an exterior edge having a curved surface portion defined by a straight linear component that is parallel to , or inclined to, said axis at all points along said curved surface portion, said curved surface portion being smooth and highly light reflective,

wherein said at least one link element comprises a plurality of regions, adjacent ones of which exhibit different visual properties, and wherein:

said regions of different visual properties include regions of different surface textures superimposed on said regions of different colors; and

at least one of said regions of different surface textures is formed therein by employing at least one process selected from the group consisting of serrating, scoring, knurling, lining, patterning, pressure stamping, impressing, sandblasting, etching, shaping, polishing, matting, frosting, and diamond cutting.

21. (currently amended) ~~The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 17, A~~
length of jewelry rope chain constructed of a plurality of link elements assembled to form a length of six-link rope chain, wherein each of said link elements has an axis and is generally C-shaped in configuration to define a gap between facing ends thereof, at least one of said link elements comprises:

a first major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an opposite second major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an interior edge; and

an exterior edge having a curved surface portion defined by a straight linear

component that is parallel to , or inclined to, said axis at all points along said curved surface portion, said curved surface portion being smooth and highly light reflective,

wherein said at least one link element comprises a plurality of regions, adjacent ones of which exhibit different visual properties, and wherein:

said regions of different visual properties include regions of different surface textures superimposed on said regions of different reflectivities; and

at least one of said regions of different surface textures is formed therein by employing at least one process selected from the group consisting of serrating, scoring, knurling, lining, patterning, pressure stamping, impressing, sandblasting, etching, shaping, polishing, matting, frosting, and diamond cutting.

22. (original) ~~The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 17,~~ A length of jewelry rope chain constructed of a plurality of link elements assembled to form a length of six-link rope chain, wherein each of said link elements has an axis and is generally C-shaped in configuration to define a gap between facing ends thereof, at least one of said link elements comprises:

a first major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an opposite second major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an interior edge; and

an exterior edge having a curved surface portion defined by a straight linear component that is parallel to , or inclined to, said axis at all points along said curved surface portion, said curved surface portion being smooth and highly light reflective,

wherein said at least one link element comprises a plurality of regions, adjacent ones of which exhibit different visual properties, and wherein:

said regions of different visual properties include regions of different surface textures superimposed on said regions of different materials; and

at least one of said regions of different surface textures is formed therein by employing at least one process selected from the group consisting of serrating, scoring, knurling, lining, patterning, pressure stamping, impressing, sandblasting, etching, shaping, polishing, matting, frosting, and diamond cutting.

23. – 26. (canceled)

27. (currently amended) ~~The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 16,~~ A length of jewelry rope chain constructed of a plurality of link elements assembled to form a length of six-link rope chain, wherein each of said link elements has an axis and is generally C-shaped in configuration to define a gap between facing ends thereof, at least one of said link elements comprises:

a first major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an opposite second major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an interior edge; and

an exterior edge having a curved surface portion defined by a straight linear component that is parallel to , or inclined to, said axis at all points along said curved surface portion, said curved surface portion being smooth and highly light reflective,
wherein:

said at least one link element is stamped from a sheet of material in a stamping procedure; and

at least a portion of said link element has a textured surface formed during said stamping procedure.

28. (canceled)

29. (currently amended) ~~The method as claimed in Claim 28, comprising:~~

A method for manufacturing a length of rope chain comprised of a plurality of link elements assembled to form a length of six-link rope chain, said method comprising:

providing an elongated strip of material having a prescribed length, width, and thickness;

forming said strip into a generally C-shaped rope chain link element to define a gap between facing ends thereof, said formed link element having an axis, a first major surface perpendicular to said axis, an opposite second major surface perpendicular to said axis, an interior edge, and an exterior edge having a curved surface portion defined

by a straight linear component that is parallel to, or inclined to, said axis at all points along said curved surface portion, said curved surface portion being smooth and highly light reflective;

assembling a plurality of said link elements to form a length of six-link rope chain;

providing a sheet of material having a plurality of regions, adjacent ones of which exhibit different visual properties; and

slicing said elongated strip from said sheet of material, whereby the formed link element so produced comprises portions of said sheet of material that exhibit at least two different ones of said visual properties.

30. (original) The method as claimed in Claim 29, comprising:

producing a pattern of textured segments on at least one surface of said elongated strip prior to forming said strip into a generally C-shaped link element.

31. (original) The method as claimed in Claim 29, wherein:

providing a sheet of material having a plurality of regions includes providing said sheet of material having a flat, smooth, highly reflective surface which defines said smooth and highly reflective exterior surface portion of said link element.

32. (original) The method as claimed in Claim 29, wherein said different visual properties are selected from the group consisting of different colors, different surface textures, different reflectivities, different materials, different gold karat weights, different shapes, different patterns, different sizes, and different designs.

33. (original) The method as claimed in Claim 32, wherein providing said strip of material includes texturing at least one of said regions by employing at least one process selected from the group consisting of serrating, scoring, knurling, lining, patterning, pressure stamping, impressing, sandblasting, etching, shaping, polishing, matting, frosting, and diamond cutting.

34. (currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim 29 [[28]], comprising:
treating said exterior edge portion to have enhanced reflectivity.

35. (currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim 29 [[28]], comprising:
forming a textured surface on at least a portion of said link element in a stamping operation.

36. (currently amended) A length of jewelry rope chain manufactured by the method as claimed in Claim 29 [[28]].

37. – 106. (canceled)

107. (currently amended) A length of jewelry rope chain constructed of a plurality of link elements assembled to form a length of six-link rope chain, wherein each of said link elements has an axis and is generally C-shaped in configuration to define a gap between facing ends thereof, at least one of said link elements comprises:

a first major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an opposite second major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an interior edge; and

an exterior edge having a curved surface portion defined by a straight linear component that is parallel to , or inclined to, said axis at all points along said curved surface portion, said curved surface portion being smooth and highly light reflective, wherein:

said rope chain has the appearance of intertwining first and second helical rope strands; and

said first and second helical strands exhibit at least two distinctly different visual properties selected from the group consisting of different colors, different textures, and different materials, along the length of said rope chain;

link thickness is defined as a distance between and perpendicular to planes containing said first and second major surfaces;

a portion of said at least one link element has a first link thickness;

another portion of said at least link element has a second link thickness less than said first link thickness; and

~~The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 106, wherein:~~

a major surface of said link element portion having said second link thickness is textured.

108. (currently amended) A length of jewelry rope chain constructed of a plurality of link elements assembled to form a length of six-link rope chain, wherein each of said link elements has an axis and is generally C-shaped in configuration to define a gap between facing ends thereof, at least one of said link elements comprises:

a first major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an opposite second major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an interior edge; and

an exterior edge having a curved surface portion defined by a straight linear component that is parallel to , or inclined to, said axis at all points along said curved surface portion, said curved surface portion being smooth and highly light reflective, wherein:

said rope chain has the appearance of intertwining first and second helical rope strands; and

said first and second helical strands exhibit at least two distinctly different visual properties selected from the group consisting of different colors, different textures, and different materials, along the length of said rope chain;

link thickness is defined as a distance between and perpendicular to planes containing said first and second major surfaces;

a portion of said at least one link element has a first link thickness;

another portion of said at least link element has a second link thickness less than said first link thickness; and

~~The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 106, wherein:~~

at least one other portion of said link element has a link thickness less than that of said first or second link thickness.

109. (canceled)

110. (currently amended) A length of jewelry rope chain constructed of a plurality of link elements assembled to form a length of six-link rope chain, wherein each of said link elements has an axis and is generally C-shaped in configuration to define a gap between facing ends thereof, at least one of said link elements comprises:

a first major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an opposite second major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an interior edge; and

an exterior edge having a curved surface portion defined by a straight linear component that is parallel to , or inclined to, said axis at all points along said curved surface portion, said curved surface portion being smooth and highly light reflective, wherein:

said rope chain has the appearance of intertwining first and second helical rope strands;

said first and second helical strands exhibit at least two distinctly different visual properties selected from the group consisting of different colors, different textures, and different materials, along the length of said rope chain;

~~The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 105, wherein:~~

first and second helical channels are defined at the transition between said intertwined first and second helical rope strands;

each channel has two sides which include respective portions of adjacent ones of said first and second rope strands; and

one side of one channel exhibits a visual property different than the other side of said one channel.

111. (currently amended) A length of jewelry rope chain constructed of a plurality of link elements assembled to form a length of six-link rope chain, wherein each of said link elements has an axis and is generally C-shaped in configuration to define a gap between facing ends thereof, at least one of said link elements comprises:

a first major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an opposite second major surface perpendicular to said axis;
an interior edge; and
an exterior edge having a curved surface portion defined by a straight linear component that is parallel to , or inclined to, said axis at all points along said curved surface portion, said curved surface portion being smooth and highly light reflective,
wherein:

said rope chain has the appearance of intertwining first and second helical rope strands;

said first and second helical strands exhibit at least two distinctly different visual properties selected from the group consisting of different colors, different textures, and different materials, along the length of said rope chain;

~~The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 105, wherein:~~

first and second helical channels are defined at the transition between said intertwined first and second helical rope strands;

each channel has two sides which include respective portions of adjacent ones of said first and second rope strands; and

one side of one channel exhibits a visual property different than the rest of the length of rope chain.

112. (currently amended) A length of jewelry rope chain constructed of a plurality of link elements assembled to form a length of six-link rope chain, wherein each of said link elements has an axis and is generally C-shaped in configuration to define a gap between facing ends thereof, at least one of said link elements comprises:

a first major surface perpendicular to said axis;
an opposite second major surface perpendicular to said axis;
an interior edge; and
an exterior edge having a curved surface portion defined by a straight linear component that is parallel to , or inclined to, said axis at all points along said curved surface portion, said curved surface portion being smooth and highly light reflective,
wherein:

said rope chain has the appearance of intertwining first and second helical rope

strands;

said first and second helical strands exhibit at least two distinctly different visual properties selected from the group consisting of different colors, different textures, and different materials, along the length of said rope chain;

~~The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 105, wherein:~~

first and second helical channels are defined at the transition between said intertwined first and second helical rope strands;

each channel has two sides which include respective portions of adjacent ones of said first and second rope strands; and

both sides of one channel exhibit visual properties different than the rest of the length of rope chain.

113. (currently amended) A length of jewelry rope chain constructed of a plurality of link elements assembled to form a length of six-link rope chain, wherein each of said link elements has an axis and is generally C-shaped in configuration to define a gap between facing ends thereof, at least one of said link elements comprises:

a first major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an opposite second major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an interior edge; and

an exterior edge having a curved surface portion defined by a straight linear component that is parallel to, or inclined to, said axis at all points along said curved surface portion, said curved surface portion being smooth and highly light reflective,

wherein:

said rope chain has the appearance of intertwining first and second helical rope strands;

said first and second helical strands exhibit at least two distinctly different visual properties selected from the group consisting of different colors, different textures, and different materials, along the length of said rope chain;

~~The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 105, wherein:~~

first and second helical channels are defined at the transition between said intertwined first and second helical rope strands;

each channel has two sides which include respective portions of adjacent ones of said first and second rope strands; and

one side of both channels exhibits visual properties different than the rest of the length of rope chain.

114. (canceled)

115. (currently amended) A length of jewelry rope chain constructed of a plurality of link elements assembled to form a length of six-link rope chain, wherein each of said link elements has an axis and is generally C-shaped in configuration to define a gap between facing ends thereof, at least one of said link elements comprises:

a first major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an opposite second major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an interior edge; and

an exterior edge having a curved surface portion defined by a straight linear component that is parallel to , or inclined to, said axis at all points along said curved surface portion, said curved surface portion being smooth and highly light reflective, wherein:

said rope chain has the appearance of intertwining first and second helical rope strands;

said first and second helical strands exhibit at least two distinctly different visual properties selected from the group consisting of different colors, different textures, and different materials, along the length of said rope chain;

~~The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 105, wherein:~~

first and second helical channels are defined at the transition between said intertwined first and second helical rope strands;

each channel has two sides which include respective portions of adjacent ones of said first and second rope strands; and

both sides of both channels exhibit visual properties different than the rest of the length of rope chain.

116. (currently amended) A length of jewelry rope chain constructed of a plurality of link elements assembled to form a length of six-link rope chain, wherein each of said link elements has an axis and is generally C-shaped in configuration to define a gap between facing ends thereof, at least one of said link elements comprises:

a first major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an opposite second major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an interior edge; and

an exterior edge having a curved surface portion defined by a straight linear component that is parallel to , or inclined to, said axis at all points along said curved surface portion, said curved surface portion being smooth and highly light reflective, wherein:

said rope chain has the appearance of intertwining first and second helical rope strands;

said first and second helical strands exhibit at least two distinctly different visual properties selected from the group consisting of different colors, different textures, and different materials, along the length of said rope chain;

~~The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 105, wherein:~~

the most outwardly portions of said first and second helical rope strands are defined, respectively, as first and second helical outer periphery regions; and

said first periphery region exhibits a visual property different than that of the rest of the length of rope chain.

117. – 118. (canceled)

119. (currently amended) A length of jewelry rope chain constructed of a plurality of link elements assembled to form a length of six-link rope chain, wherein each of said link elements has an axis and is generally C-shaped in configuration to define a gap between facing ends thereof, at least one of said link elements comprises:

a first major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an opposite second major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an interior edge; and

an exterior edge having a curved surface portion defined by a straight linear component that is parallel to , or inclined to, said axis at all points along said curved surface portion, said curved surface portion being smooth and highly light reflective, wherein:

said rope chain has the appearance of intertwining first and second helical rope strands;

said first and second helical strands exhibit at least two distinctly different visual properties selected from the group consisting of different colors, different textures, and different materials, along the length of said rope chain;

~~The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 105, wherein:~~

said gapped link elements are generally square in shape, having two spaced apart straight sides joined by two spaced apart straight ends, a gap located at one of said ends;

link width is defined as the distance between said interior and said exterior edges at any point along the extent of said link element; and

one of said straight sides has a link width greater than that of the other of said straight sides.

120. – 121. (canceled)

122. (currently amended) A length of jewelry rope chain constructed of a plurality of link elements assembled to form a length of six-link rope chain, wherein each of said link elements has an axis and is generally C-shaped in configuration to define a gap between facing ends thereof, at least one of said link elements comprises:

a first major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an opposite second major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an interior edge; and

an exterior edge having a curved surface portion defined by a straight linear component that is parallel to , or inclined to, said axis at all points along said curved surface portion, said curved surface portion being smooth and highly light reflective, wherein:

said rope chain has the appearance of intertwining first and second helical rope strands;

said first and second helical strands exhibit at least two distinctly different visual properties selected from the group consisting of different colors, different textures, and different materials, along the length of said rope chain;

~~The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 105, wherein:~~

said gapped link elements are generally heart-shaped, having two spaced apart curved sides and two spaced apart ends, said ends having, respectively, an outwardly directed apex and an inwardly directed inverted apex, a gap located at said end with the outwardly directed apex; and

one of said sides is textured.

123. (currently amended) A length of jewelry rope chain constructed of a plurality of link elements assembled to form a length of six-link rope chain, wherein each of said link elements has an axis and is generally C-shaped in configuration to define a gap between facing ends thereof, at least one of said link elements comprises:

a first major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an opposite second major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an interior edge; and

an exterior edge having a curved surface portion defined by a straight linear component that is parallel to, or inclined to, said axis at all points along said curved surface portion, said curved surface portion being smooth and highly light reflective, wherein:

said rope chain has the appearance of intertwining first and second helical rope strands;

said first and second helical strands exhibit at least two distinctly different visual properties selected from the group consisting of different colors, different textures, and different materials, along the length of said rope chain;

~~The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 105, wherein:~~

said first major surface exhibits a visual property different than that of said second major surface.

124. (canceled)

125. (currently amended) A length of jewelry rope chain constructed of a plurality of link elements assembled to form a length of six-link rope chain, wherein each of said link elements has an axis and is generally C-shaped in configuration to define a gap between facing ends thereof, at least one of said link elements comprises:

a first major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an opposite second major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an interior edge; and

an exterior edge having a curved surface portion defined by a straight linear component that is parallel to , or inclined to, said axis at all points along said curved surface portion, said curved surface portion being smooth and highly light reflective, wherein:

said rope chain has the appearance of intertwining first and second helical rope strands;

said first and second helical strands exhibit at least two distinctly different visual properties selected from the group consisting of different colors, different textures, and different materials, along the length of said rope chain;

~~The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 105, wherein each said link element comprises:~~

~~a first link layer having the shape and configuration of said link elements, but with half the link thickness defined as the distance between said first major surface and said second major surface of said link element; and~~

~~a second link layer having the same shape, configuration, and thickness as said first link layer; wherein~~

~~said two link layers are joined together by bonding one major surface of said first link layer with a major surface of said second link layer to form said link element; and~~

~~the exposed major surface of said first link layer exhibits a different visual property than the exposed major surface of said second link layer.~~

126. (currently amended) A length of jewelry rope chain constructed of a plurality of link elements assembled to form a length of six-link rope chain, wherein each of said link elements has an axis and is generally C-shaped in configuration to define a gap between facing ends thereof, at least one of said link elements comprises:

a first major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an opposite second major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an interior edge; and

an exterior edge having a curved surface portion defined by a straight linear component that is parallel to, or inclined to, said axis at all points along said curved surface portion, said curved surface portion being smooth and highly light reflective, wherein:

said rope chain has the appearance of intertwining first and second helical rope strands;

said first and second helical strands exhibit at least two distinctly different visual properties selected from the group consisting of different colors, different textures, and different materials, along the length of said rope chain;

The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 105, wherein:

said gap of each of said C-shaped gapped link elements defines a space between facing ends thereof;

a heel portion of said link element is defined as that portion directly opposite said gap;

a link arm is defined as a part of the link element between either one of said facing ends and said heel portion;

the exterior edge of one of said arms has scalloped segments; and

the exterior edge of the other of said arms is smooth and absent scalloped segments.

127. (previously presented) The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 126, wherein:

at least one scalloped segment has a textured surface.

128. (previously presented) The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 127, wherein said textured surface is a major surface of said link element.

129. (previously presented) The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 127, wherein said textured surface is the exterior edge of said scalloped segment.

130. (previously presented) The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 127, wherein one scalloped segment is textured differently than other scalloped segments.

131. (currently amended)

A length of jewelry rope chain constructed of a plurality of link elements assembled to form a length of six-link rope chain, wherein each of said link elements has an axis and is generally C-shaped in configuration to define a gap between facing ends thereof, at least one of said link elements comprises:

a first major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an opposite second major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an interior edge; and

an exterior edge having a curved surface portion defined by a straight linear component that is parallel to , or inclined to, said axis at all points along said curved surface portion, said curved surface portion being smooth and highly light reflective, wherein:

said rope chain has the appearance of intertwining first and second helical rope strands;

said first and second helical strands exhibit at least two distinctly different visual properties selected from the group consisting of different colors, different textures, and different materials, along the length of said rope chain;

The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 105, wherein:

said gap of each of said C-shaped gapped link elements defines a space between facing ends thereof;

a heel portion of said link element is defined as that portion directly opposite said gap;

a link arm is defined as a part of the link element between either one of said facing ends and said heel portion;

link width is defined as the distance between said interior and said exterior edges at any point along the extent of said link element; and

the link width of one of said arms progressively increases from said gap toward the center of said one arm, progressively increases from said heel toward said arm center, and decreases in the vicinity of said arm center.

132. (previously presented) The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 131, wherein the other of said arms is textured on at least one of said first major surface, second major surface, and exterior edge.

133. (currently amended) A length of jewelry rope chain constructed of a plurality of link elements assembled to form a length of six-link rope chain, wherein each of said link elements has an axis and is generally C-shaped in configuration to define a gap between facing ends thereof, at least one of said link elements comprises:

a first major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an opposite second major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an interior edge; and

an exterior edge having a curved surface portion defined by a straight linear component that is parallel to , or inclined to, said axis at all points along said curved surface portion, said curved surface portion being smooth and highly light reflective, wherein:

said rope chain has the appearance of intertwining first and second helical rope strands;

said first and second helical strands exhibit at least two distinctly different visual properties selected from the group consisting of different colors, different textures, and different materials, along the length of said rope chain;

~~The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 105, wherein:~~

said gap of each of said C-shaped gapped link elements defines a space between facing ends thereof;

a heel portion of said link element is defined as that portion directly opposite said gap;

a link arm is defined as a part of the link element between either one of said facing ends and said heel portion;

link width is defined as the distance between said interior and said exterior edges at any point along the extent of said link element; and

the exterior edge of said link element is shaped to reduce link width on a portion of said link element at the location of said heel.

134. (previously presented) The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 133, wherein said exterior edge is further shaped to reduce link width on a portion of said link element at the location of said gap.

135. (currently amended) A length of jewelry rope chain constructed of a plurality of link elements assembled to form a length of six-link rope chain, wherein each of said link elements has an axis and is generally C-shaped in configuration to define a gap between facing ends thereof, at least one of said link elements comprises:

a first major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an opposite second major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an interior edge; and

an exterior edge having a curved surface portion defined by a straight linear component that is parallel to , or inclined to, said axis at all points along said curved surface portion, said curved surface portion being smooth and highly light reflective, wherein:

said rope chain has the appearance of intertwining first and second helical rope strands;

said first and second helical strands exhibit at least two distinctly different visual properties selected from the group consisting of different colors, different textures, and different materials, along the length of said rope chain;

~~The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 105, wherein:~~

said gap of each of said C-shaped gapped link elements defines a space between

facing ends thereof;

a heel portion of said link element is defined as that portion directly opposite said gap;

a link arm is defined as a part of the link element between either one of said facing ends and said heel portion;

link width is defined as the distance between said interior and said exterior edges at any point along the extent of said link element; and

the exterior edge of said link element is shaped to reduce link width on a portion of said link element at a first location between said gap and the center of said one arm, and at a second location between said heel and said arm center.

136. (previously presented) The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 135, wherein link width is decreased at the arm center of the other arm.

137. (previously presented) The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 135, wherein said link element is textured on at least one of said first major surface, second major surface, and exterior edge.

138. (currently amended) A length of jewelry rope chain constructed of a plurality of link elements assembled to form a length of six-link rope chain, wherein each of said link elements has an axis and is generally C-shaped in configuration to define a gap between facing ends thereof, at least one of said link elements comprises:

a first major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an opposite second major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an interior edge; and

an exterior edge having a curved surface portion defined by a straight linear component that is parallel to , or inclined to, said axis at all points along said curved surface portion, said curved surface portion being smooth and highly light reflective, wherein:

said rope chain has the appearance of intertwining first and second helical rope strands;

said first and second helical strands exhibit at least two distinctly different visual properties selected from the group consisting of different colors, different textures, and different materials, along the length of said rope chain;

~~The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 105, wherein:~~

said gap of each of said C-shaped gapped link elements defines a space between facing ends thereof;

a heel portion of said link element is defined as that portion directly opposite said gap;

a link arm is defined as a part of the link element between either one of said facing ends and said heel portion;

link width is defined as the distance between said interior and said exterior edges at any point along the extent of said link element; and

the exterior edge of said link element is shaped to reduce link width on a portion of said link element at a location on one of said arms between said gap and the center of said one arm.

139. (previously presented) The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 138, wherein said one arm is textured at a location between said heel and said one arm center.

140. (previously presented) The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 138, wherein the other one of said arms is shaped to reduce link width on a portion of said link element at a location on the other one of said arms between said heel and the center of said other arm.

141. (previously presented) The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 140, wherein:

said link element is textured on a major surface at one of said arm locations; and
said link element is textured on the exterior surface of the other of said arm locations.

142. (currently amended) A length of jewelry rope chain constructed of a plurality of link elements assembled to form a length of six-link rope chain, wherein each of said link elements has an axis and is generally C-shaped in configuration to define a gap between facing ends thereof, at least one of said link elements comprises:

a first major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an opposite second major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an interior edge; and

an exterior edge having a curved surface portion defined by a straight linear component that is parallel to , or inclined to, said axis at all points along said curved surface portion, said curved surface portion being smooth and highly light reflective, wherein:

said rope chain has the appearance of intertwining first and second helical rope strands;

said first and second helical strands exhibit at least two distinctly different visual properties selected from the group consisting of different colors, different textures, and different materials, along the length of said rope chain;

~~The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 105, wherein:~~

said gap of each of said C-shaped gapped link elements defines a space between facing ends thereof;

a heel portion of said link element is defined as that portion directly opposite said gap;

a link arm is defined as a part of the link element between either one of said facing ends and said heel portion;

at least one of said arms has a single flat surface formed on its exterior edge parallel to a line passing through said gap and said heel; and

at least one of said flat surface and a major surface in the vicinity of said flat surface is textured.

143. (previously presented) The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 142, wherein:

a single flat surface is formed on both said arms; and

at least one of said flat surfaces is textured.

144. (currently amended) A length of jewelry rope chain constructed of a plurality of link elements assembled to form a length of six-link rope chain, wherein each of said link elements has an axis and is generally C-shaped in configuration to define a gap between facing ends thereof, at least one of said link elements comprises:

a first major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an opposite second major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an interior edge; and

an exterior edge having a curved surface portion defined by a straight linear component that is parallel to , or inclined to, said axis at all points along said curved surface portion, said curved surface portion being smooth and highly light reflective, wherein:

said rope chain has the appearance of intertwining first and second helical rope strands;

said first and second helical strands exhibit at least two distinctly different visual properties selected from the group consisting of different colors, different textures, and different materials, along the length of said rope chain;

The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 105, wherein:

said gap of each of said C-shaped gapped link elements defines a space between facing ends thereof;

a heel portion of said link element is defined as that portion directly opposite said gap;

a link arm is defined as a part of the link element between either one of said facing ends and said heel portion;

each of said arms has a single flat surface formed on its exterior edge parallel to a line passing through said gap and said heel; and

at least one major surface of at least one of said arms is textured.

145. (currently amended) A length of jewelry rope chain constructed of a plurality of link elements assembled to form a length of six-link rope chain, wherein each of said

link elements has an axis and is generally C-shaped in configuration to define a gap between facing ends thereof, at least one of said link elements comprises:

a first major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an opposite second major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an interior edge; and

an exterior edge having a curved surface portion defined by a straight linear component that is parallel to , or inclined to, said axis at all points along said curved surface portion, said curved surface portion being smooth and highly light reflective, wherein:

said rope chain has the appearance of intertwining first and second helical rope strands;

said first and second helical strands exhibit at least two distinctly different visual properties selected from the group consisting of different colors, different textures, and different materials, along the length of said rope chain;

~~The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 105, wherein:~~

said gap of each of said C-shaped gapped link elements defines a space between facing ends thereof;

a heel portion of said link element is defined as that portion directly opposite said gap;

a link arm is defined as a part of the link element between either one of said facing ends and said heel portion;

said link element is D-shaped, one of said arms having a substantially straight portion, and the other of said arms having a substantially semi-circular portion; and

one of said straight portion and said semi-circular portion is textured.

146. (currently amended) A length of jewelry rope chain constructed of a plurality of link elements assembled to form a length of six-link rope chain, wherein each of said link elements has an axis and is generally C-shaped in configuration to define a gap between facing ends thereof, at least one of said link elements comprises:

a first major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an opposite second major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an interior edge; and

an exterior edge having a curved surface portion defined by a straight linear component that is parallel to , or inclined to, said axis at all points along said curved surface portion, said curved surface portion being smooth and highly light reflective, wherein:

said rope chain has the appearance of intertwining first and second helical rope strands;

said first and second helical strands exhibit at least two distinctly different visual properties selected from the group consisting of different colors, different textures, and different materials, along the length of said rope chain;

The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 105, wherein:

said gap of each of said C-shaped gapped link elements defines a space between facing ends thereof;

a heel portion of said link element is defined as that portion directly opposite said gap;

a link arm is defined as a part of the link element between either one of said facing ends and said heel portion;

said link element is annular with a substantially circular cross section;

a plurality of flat surfaces are formed on said exterior edge of one of said arms;

and

at least one major surface of said one arm is textured.

147. (currently amended) A length of jewelry rope chain constructed of a plurality of link elements assembled to form a length of six-link rope chain, wherein each of said link elements has an axis and is generally C-shaped in configuration to define a gap between facing ends thereof, at least one of said link elements comprises:

a first major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an opposite second major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an interior edge; and

an exterior edge having a curved surface portion defined by a straight linear component that is parallel to , or inclined to, said axis at all points along said curved

surface portion, said curved surface portion being smooth and highly light reflective,
wherein:

said rope chain has the appearance of intertwining first and second helical rope
strands;

said first and second helical strands exhibit at least two distinctly different visual
properties selected from the group consisting of different colors, different textures, and
different materials, along the length of said rope chain;

~~The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 105, wherein:~~

said gap of each of said C-shaped gapped link elements defines a space between
facing ends thereof;

a heel portion of said link element is defined as that portion directly opposite
said gap;

a link arm is defined as a part of the link element between either one of said
facing ends and said heel portion;

said link element is annular;

the exterior edge of at least one arm is textured; and

a plurality of flat surfaces are formed on said exterior edge of one of said arms
superimposed over said textured exterior edge.

148. (currently amended) A length of jewelry rope chain constructed of a plurality of
link elements assembled to form a length of six-link rope chain, wherein each of said
link elements has an axis and is generally C-shaped in configuration to define a gap
between facing ends thereof, at least one of said link elements comprises:

a first major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an opposite second major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an interior edge; and

an exterior edge having a curved surface portion defined by a straight linear
component that is parallel to , or inclined to, said axis at all points along said curved
surface portion, said curved surface portion being smooth and highly light reflective,
wherein:

said rope chain has the appearance of intertwining first and second helical rope

strands;

said first and second helical strands exhibit at least two distinctly different visual properties selected from the group consisting of different colors, different textures, and different materials, along the length of said rope chain;

~~The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 105, wherein:~~

said gap of each of said C-shaped gapped link elements defines a space between facing ends thereof;

a heel portion of said link element is defined as that portion directly opposite said gap;

a link arm is defined as a part of the link element between either one of said facing ends and said heel portion;

said link element is annular with a substantially circular cross section;

a plurality of flat surfaces are formed on said exterior edge of one of said arms;
and

said plurality of flat surfaces are arranged in serial fashion along the extent of the exterior edge of said one arm with little or no space between said flat surfaces.

149. – 150. (canceled)

151. (currently amended) A length of jewelry rope chain constructed of a plurality of link elements assembled to form a length of six-link rope chain, wherein each of said link elements has an axis and is generally C-shaped in configuration to define a gap between facing ends thereof, at least one of said link elements comprises:

a first major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an opposite second major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an interior edge; and

an exterior edge having a curved surface portion defined by a straight linear component that is parallel to , or inclined to, said axis at all points along said curved surface portion, said curved surface portion being smooth and highly light reflective,
wherein:

said rope chain has the appearance of intertwining first and second helical rope

strands;

said first and second helical strands exhibit at least two distinctly different visual properties selected from the group consisting of different colors, different textures, and different materials, along the length of said rope chain;

at least one of said first and second helical strands exhibits multiple visual properties;

~~The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 149, wherein:~~

first and second helical channels are defined between said intertwined first and second helical rope strands;

each channel has two sides which include respective portions of adjacent ones of said first and second rope strands; and

one side of one channel exhibits a visual property the same as that of the other side of said one channel.

152. (currently amended) A length of jewelry rope chain constructed of a plurality of link elements assembled to form a length of six-link rope chain, wherein each of said link elements has an axis and is generally C-shaped in configuration to define a gap between facing ends thereof, at least one of said link elements comprises:

a first major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an opposite second major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an interior edge; and

an exterior edge having a curved surface portion defined by a straight linear component that is parallel to, or inclined to, said axis at all points along said curved surface portion, said curved surface portion being smooth and highly light reflective, wherein:

said rope chain has the appearance of intertwining first and second helical rope strands;

said first and second helical strands exhibit at least two distinctly different visual properties selected from the group consisting of different colors, different textures, and different materials, along the length of said rope chain;

at least one of said first and second helical strands exhibits multiple visual

properties;

~~The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 149, wherein:~~

first and second helical channels are defined between said intertwined first and second helical rope strands;

each channel has two sides which include respective portions of adjacent ones of said first and second rope strands; and

one side of one channel exhibits a visual property different than the rest of the length of rope chain.

153. (currently amended) A length of jewelry rope chain constructed of a plurality of link elements assembled to form a length of six-link rope chain, wherein each of said link elements has an axis and is generally C-shaped in configuration to define a gap between facing ends thereof, at least one of said link elements comprises:

a first major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an opposite second major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an interior edge; and

an exterior edge having a curved surface portion defined by a straight linear component that is parallel to , or inclined to, said axis at all points along said curved surface portion, said curved surface portion being smooth and highly light reflective,
wherein:

said rope chain has the appearance of intertwining first and second helical rope strands;

said first and second helical strands exhibit at least two distinctly different visual properties selected from the group consisting of different colors, different textures, and different materials, along the length of said rope chain;

at least one of said first and second helical strands exhibits multiple visual properties;

~~The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 149, wherein:~~

first and second helical channels are defined between said intertwined first and second helical rope strands;

each channel has two sides which include respective portions of adjacent ones of

said first and second rope strands; and

both sides of one channel exhibit visual properties different than the rest of the length of rope chain.

154. (currently amended) A length of jewelry rope chain constructed of a plurality of link elements assembled to form a length of six-link rope chain, wherein each of said link elements has an axis and is generally C-shaped in configuration to define a gap between facing ends thereof, at least one of said link elements comprises:

a first major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an opposite second major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an interior edge; and

an exterior edge having a curved surface portion defined by a straight linear component that is parallel to , or inclined to, said axis at all points along said curved surface portion, said curved surface portion being smooth and highly light reflective, wherein:

said rope chain has the appearance of intertwining first and second helical rope strands;

said first and second helical strands exhibit at least two distinctly different visual properties selected from the group consisting of different colors, different textures, and different materials, along the length of said rope chain;

at least one of said first and second helical strands exhibits multiple visual properties;

~~The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 149, wherein:~~

first and second helical channels are defined between said intertwined first and second helical rope strands;

each channel has two sides which include respective portions of adjacent ones of said first and second rope strands; and

one side of both channels exhibits visual properties different than the rest of the length of rope chain.

155. (currently amended) A length of jewelry rope chain constructed of a plurality of

link elements assembled to form a length of six-link rope chain, wherein each of said link elements has an axis and is generally C-shaped in configuration to define a gap between facing ends thereof, at least one of said link elements comprises:

a first major surface perpendicular to said axis;
an opposite second major surface perpendicular to said axis;
an interior edge; and
an exterior edge having a curved surface portion defined by a straight linear component that is parallel to , or inclined to, said axis at all points along said curved surface portion, said curved surface portion being smooth and highly light reflective,
wherein:

said rope chain has the appearance of intertwining first and second helical rope strands;

said first and second helical strands exhibit at least two distinctly different visual properties selected from the group consisting of different colors, different textures, and different materials, along the length of said rope chain;

at least one of said first and second helical strands exhibits multiple visual properties;

~~The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 149, wherein:~~

first and second helical channels are defined between said intertwined first and second helical rope strands;

each channel has two sides which include respective portions of adjacent ones of said first and second rope strands; and

both sides of both channels exhibit a visual property different than the rest of the length of rope chain.

156. (currently amended) A length of jewelry rope chain constructed of a plurality of link elements assembled to form a length of six-link rope chain, wherein each of said link elements has an axis and is generally C-shaped in configuration to define a gap between facing ends thereof, at least one of said link elements comprises:

a first major surface perpendicular to said axis;
an opposite second major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an interior edge; and

an exterior edge having a curved surface portion defined by a straight linear component that is parallel to , or inclined to, said axis at all points along said curved surface portion, said curved surface portion being smooth and highly light reflective, wherein:

said rope chain has the appearance of intertwining first and second helical rope strands;

said first and second helical strands exhibit at least two distinctly different visual properties selected from the group consisting of different colors, different textures, and different materials, along the length of said rope chain;

at least one of said first and second helical strands exhibits multiple visual properties;

The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 149, wherein:

first and second helical outer periphery regions are defined on the most outwardly portion of said first and second helical rope strands, respectively; and

said first periphery region exhibits a visual property different than that of said second periphery region.

157. (currently amended) A length of jewelry rope chain constructed of a plurality of link elements assembled to form a length of six-link rope chain, wherein each of said link elements has an axis and is generally C-shaped in configuration to define a gap between facing ends thereof, at least one of said link elements comprises:

a first major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an opposite second major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an interior edge; and

an exterior edge having a curved surface portion defined by a straight linear component that is parallel to , or inclined to, said axis at all points along said curved surface portion, said curved surface portion being smooth and highly light reflective, wherein:

said rope chain has the appearance of intertwining first and second helical rope strands;

said first and second helical strands exhibit at least two distinctly different visual properties selected from the group consisting of different colors, different textures, and different materials, along the length of said rope chain;

at least one of said first and second helical strands exhibits multiple visual properties;

~~The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 149, wherein:~~

first and second helical outer periphery regions are defined on the most outwardly portion of said first and second helical rope strands, respectively; and

said first periphery region exhibits the same visual property as said second periphery region.

158. (currently amended) A length of jewelry rope chain constructed of a plurality of link elements assembled to form a length of six-link rope chain, wherein each of said link elements has an axis and is generally C-shaped in configuration to define a gap between facing ends thereof, at least one of said link elements comprises:

a first major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an opposite second major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an interior edge; and

an exterior edge having a curved surface portion defined by a straight linear component that is parallel to , or inclined to, said axis at all points along said curved surface portion, said curved surface portion being smooth and highly light reflective, wherein:

said rope chain has the appearance of intertwining first and second helical rope strands;

said first and second helical strands exhibit at least two distinctly different visual properties selected from the group consisting of different colors, different textures, and different materials, along the length of said rope chain;

at least one of said first and second helical strands exhibits multiple visual properties;

~~The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 149, wherein:~~

first and second helical outer periphery regions are defined on the most

outwardly portion of said first and second helical rope strands, respectively;

first and second helical channels are defined between said intertwined first and second helical rope strands;

each channel has two sides which include respective portions of adjacent ones of said first and second rope strands; and

said helical outer periphery regions and said channel sides exhibit combinations of visual properties selected from the group consisting of different colors, different surface textures, different reflectivities, different materials, different gold karat weights, different shapes, different patterns, different sizes, and different designs.

159. (canceled)

160. (currently amended) A length of jewelry rope chain constructed of a plurality of link elements assembled to form a length of six-link rope chain, wherein each of said link elements has an axis and is generally C-shaped in configuration to define a gap between facing ends thereof, at least one of said link elements comprises:

a first major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an opposite second major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an interior edge; and

an exterior edge having a curved surface portion defined by a straight linear component that is parallel to, or inclined to, said axis at all points along said curved surface portion, said curved surface portion being smooth and highly light reflective, wherein:

a heel portion of said at least one link element is defined as a portion directly opposite said gap;

link width is defined as the distance between said interior and said exterior edges at any point along the extent of said link element;

said exterior edge is formed with shape variations to enhance the outward appearance of said length of rope chain;

said interior edge is formed with shape variations to reduce the amount of precious metal material used in the manufacture of said at least one link element; and

~~The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 159, wherein:~~

said interior and exterior shape variations are complementary at said heel portion to maintain a prescribed length link width at said heel portion.

161. (currently amended) A length of jewelry rope chain constructed of a plurality of link elements assembled to form a length of six-link rope chain, wherein each of said link elements has an axis and is generally C-shaped in configuration to define a gap between facing ends thereof, at least one of said link elements comprises:

a first major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an opposite second major surface perpendicular to said axis;

an interior edge; and

an exterior edge having a curved surface portion defined by a straight linear component that is parallel to , or inclined to, said axis at all points along said curved surface portion, said curved surface portion being smooth and highly light reflective, wherein:

a heel portion of said at least one link element is defined as a portion directly opposite said gap;

link width is defined as the distance between said interior and said exterior edges at any point along the extent of said link element;

said exterior edge is formed with shape variations to enhance the outward appearance of said length of rope chain;

said interior edge is formed with shape variations to reduce the amount of precious metal material used in the manufacture of said at least one link element; and

~~The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 159, wherein~~ said interior and exterior shape variations are complementary at said gap portion to maintain a prescribed link width of said facing ends at the location of said gap.

162. (currently amended) A length of jewelry rope chain constructed of a plurality of link elements assembled to form a length of six-link rope chain, wherein each of said link elements has an axis and is generally C-shaped in configuration to define a gap between facing ends thereof, at least one of said link elements comprises:

a first major surface perpendicular to said axis;
an opposite second major surface perpendicular to said axis;
an interior edge; and
an exterior edge having a curved surface portion defined by a straight linear component that is parallel to , or inclined to, said axis at all points along said curved surface portion, said curved surface portion being smooth and highly light reflective,
wherein:

a heel portion of said at least one link element is defined as a portion directly opposite said gap;

link width is defined as the distance between said interior and said exterior edges at any point along the extent of said link element;

said exterior edge is formed with shape variations to enhance the outward appearance of said length of rope chain;

said interior edge is formed with shape variations to reduce the amount of precious metal material used in the manufacture of said at least one link element;

~~The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 159, wherein:~~

said interior edge is formed with a void at said heel portion; and

said exterior edge is formed with an outwardly directed extended portion at said heel portion at a location opposite said void to maintain a prescribed minimum link width at said heel portion.

163. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said material comprises precious metal.

164. (canceled)

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